

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

November 4, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Contingency Planning for Indo-China

1. The President has reviewed the indicators pointing to the likelihood of intensified North Vietnamese/Viet Cong military activity in Indo-China during the forthcoming dry season, notably the rise in enemy infiltration, and has directed that contingency studies be developed to cover the following points:
 - Areas where major enemy attacks can be anticipated, e.g. North Laos; MRs 3 and 4 of the Laotian Panhandle; MRs I and II of South Vietnam; the Phnom Penh, Kampong Thom, Seam Riep and the Battambang areas of Cambodia; etc.
 - Estimates of the likely magnitudes of enemy attacks to the extent available intelligence data permits.
 - The capacity of local forces in threatened areas to deal with the anticipated enemy attacks.
 - Availability of South Vietnamese forces to assist in Laos and Cambodia.
 - Availability of U.S. air, ground and naval forces to assist in the defense.
2. The President also has directed that plans be developed on the basis of the foregoing studies setting forth options for the coordinated employment of U.S., South Vietnamese Cambodian and Lao forces to meet each contingency. Accompanying political steps which should be taken to support each option should be included.

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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3. These studies should be performed by an Ad Hoc Group comprising representatives of the addressees and of the NSC staff and chaired by the representative of the Secretary of Defense.
4. The contingency studies and related plans should be completed and submitted to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs for review by the Washington Special Actions Group. The contingency studies should be submitted not later than November 20, 1970, and the related plans should be submitted not later than December 1, 1970.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

*Unlogged
Sent to
Gen C.*

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MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HAIG

November 2, 1970

FROM: Richard T. Kennedy *RTK* & John Holdridge *JH*

SUBJECT: Contingency Planning for Indo-China

You asked for a draft directive for some WSAG contingency studies and plans in anticipation of intensified NVA/VC action during the forthcoming dry season. As you know, some of this planning is already underway with the objective of updating plans which we drew up last year for Laos.

We have prepared a draft which would cause the development of a set of contingency studies and plans laying out the political-military options open to us for employment of US, SVN, Cambodian and Lao Forces to meet likely contingencies. Note that we have put chairmanship in Defense on the grounds that these are primarily military contingency plans -- political scenarios will be designed to support the military plans.

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There is considerable threshing around in the bureaucracy at the moment. This draft should help to focus the effort and get some realistic options and scenarios which we can then begin to refine (our own people are already working to this end).

Attachment

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